

Texas State Agency Responsibilities



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The TPWD provides outdoor recreational opportunities by managing and protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and acquiring and managing parklands and historic areas. The mission is to manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources and to provide hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

- Formed in 1963 when State Parks Board and Game and Fish Commission merged.
- Supervised by executive director and TPWD Commission, consisting of 9 members appointed by governor.
- Eleven internal divisions. Programmatic divisions include Coastal and Inland Fisheries, Wildlife, State Parks, Law Enforcement, and Infrastructure.



Texas General Land Office

The GLO's mission is to manage state lands and mineral rights totaling 20.3 million acres, including beaches, bays, and estuaries from mean high tide to 10.36 statute miles offshore in the Gulf (4 million acres).

- Oldest state agency, established in 1836 after Texas won independence from Mexico.
- Proprietary and not regulatory agency and user of state-owned lands pays fee for mineral extraction, occupancy, or encumbrance.
- Three member School Land Board, chaired by Land Commissioner, issues leases and easements for use of state lands.
- The GLO administers the state CMP, CIAP, and CEPRA.



Texas Coastal Management Program

- Received NOAA approval in 1997.
- Overseen by Coastal Coordination Council, consisting of chairs of seven state agencies, Texas Sea Grant, and four public members appointed by the Governor.
Commissioner of GLO serves as Chair, and staff of GLO, Coastal Resources, is staff for the Council.
- Boundary is mostly road boundary that includes all or parts of 18 coastal counties.
- Passes through 90% of its roughly \$2.2 million in grants to local governments, universities, state agencies, and non-profits.



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

The TCEQ is the environmental agency for the state. It strives to protect state's human and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development.

- Issues Section 401 water quality certification for most dredge and fill activities.
- Overseen by three appointed Commissioners.
- Consists of five offices--permitting, remediation, and registration, compliance and enforcement, legal and administrative services, and chief engineer's office (air quality).



Texas Railroad Commission

The Texas RRC is the oldest regulatory agency in the state, established in 1891 to regulate the rail industry. It now oversees many industries, including oil and gas, gas utilities, pipeline safety, safety in the liquefied petroleum gas industry, and surface mining of coal.

- Overseen by three elected Commissioners.
- Issues Section 401 Certification for oil and gas activities.



Texas Water Development Board

The TWDB was created in 1957 to:

- provide loans to local governments for water supply, flood control, and water conservation projects, wastewater treatment and solid waste management, and other water needs;
- support regions in developing regional water plans;
- collect data and conduct studies concerning fresh-water needs of bays and estuaries; and
- maintain a centralized data bank of information on natural resources called the Texas Natural Resources Information System and manage the Strategic Mapping Program.

The TWDB is overseen by a six-member, appointed Board of Directors.



Agency Websites

TPWD—www.tpwd.state.tx.us/

TGLO—www.glo.state.tx.us/

TCMP—www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/cmp.html

TCEQ—www.tceq.state.tx.us/

TRRC—www.rrc.state.tx.us/

TWDB—www.twdb.state.tx.us/

